

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Muranaga (US Patent No. 5,671,428). Muranaga is newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon. Page 2, item 3 of the Action.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muranaga in view of Light (US Patent No. 5,973,693). Light is also newly cited, and, thus, newly relied upon. Page 3, item 5 of the Action.

REJECTIONS

It appears that the Examiner only provides a rationale for rejecting independent claims 1, 6, and 8. Therefore, the Examiner does not provide an express rationale for rejecting independent claims 2, 7, 9 and 10, and for rejecting the dependent claims 11 and 12. Further, the Examiner does not provide a rationale for rejecting dependent claim 4.

These claims recite additional patentably distinguishing features of their own, and the Applicants request either allowance of claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12, or the express rationale supporting the rejection of claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

For example, independent claims 2, 7, 9 and 10 recite, "updates the contents of the form stored in said first memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit."

Further, claim 4 recites:

4. (TWICE AMENDED) The document review apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a display unit displaying textual information; and
an input unit inputting commands, wherein
said updating unit including,

a display control unit which allows said display unit to display the contents of the stored form in said first memory unit in a format enabling an update result using statistical data created by said creating unit to be understood; and

a contents updating unit which updates the contents of the stored form in said first memory unit based on a command which is input via said input unit while said display control unit is controlling the display.

Further, dependent claims 11 and 12 recite:

11. ...

the review request form comprises reviewer information, deadline information, and form storage information, and

the reviewed form comprises data of phrases to be critiqued and relevant information to the phrases.

12. The document review apparatus according to claim 11, wherein phrase numbers are appended to the phrases to specify a phrase to be critiqued by the phrase number.

Muranaga and Light, as shown in FIGS. 3 and 6 of the present Application, do not disclose at least claims 11 and 12, and at least these claims are allowable. Regarding claim 11, the Examiner appears to allege that Muranaga's unit ID serves as a phrase number. However, Muranaga's IDs relate to a data structure unit used to store documents, comments attached to the documents, and version information, as data nodes to provide a data model representation of documents, comments thereto and version information (see, FIGS. 10-12 and column 10, line 27 to column 11, line 16). Further, the unit IDs of Muranaga's FIGS. 25-30 relate to data associated with a user or a document, but not a number assigned to phrases of text to be reviewed. Muranaga's IDs are not the same as the numbers assigned to text phrases to be reviewed, thereby allowing critiquing of the text according to each phrase.

At least allowance of claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 or withdrawal of the finality of the Action is respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART AND THE 35 USC 102(e) REJECTIONS

Muranaga

The Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 as being anticipated by Muranaga. However, Muranaga relates to a collaborative document processing system with version and comment management. Columns 3 and 4. The Examiner appears to rely on Muranaga's comment management unit 152, group decision making unit 209 and vote request notification unit 206. See, page 5 of the Action, and Muranaga, column 17, lines 66-67. In particular, the group decision making unit 209 makes a group decision by checking user votes (column 19, line 59 to column 20, line 29; column 21, lines 28-45).

However, Muranaga does not disclose or suggest the recitation, "critique instructions ... and ... generating a single critique analysis based on the collected critiques" (claim 1). Muranaga only processes user group votes on comments, and does not process the user

comments. Muranaga's voting analysis differs from the recitation, "a single critique analysis based on the collected critiques," because a vote differs from the claimed recitation, "critique instructions, including corrections and/or suggested changes, relating to contents of a form critiqued by reviewers" (claim 1). In other words, although in Muranaga, column 21, lines 16-46, the FIG. 30 proposition for the deletion of the document called "J3900 Manual" may appear to be similar to a critique instruction, Muranaga does not analyze the proposition with other propositions to generate the present invention's "single critique analysis." Muranaga only processes votes by the users on the one proposition.

In contrast to Muranaga, the claimed invention as recited in independent claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, provides:

a determination unit which determines, based on information received from said communication unit, whether the information is critique instructions, including corrections and/or suggested changes, relating to contents of a form critiqued by reviewers;

a storing control unit storing the critiques, as collected critiques in said memory unit; and

a creating unit generating a single critique analysis based on the collected critiques when a predetermined number of critiques have been stored in said memory unit.

Regarding comment management, Muranaga only discloses linking the comments to each document as a data storage process (i.e., a data model). Muranaga does not describe operation of the comment management unit 152 except for column 10, lines 39-41 describing the data model.

Further, Muranaga is completely silent on claim 2 recitation, "updates the contents of the form stored in said first memory unit by using the statistical data created by said creating unit."

Clearly, Muranaga does not anticipate the claimed invention, and allowance of the present application is requested or at least withdrawal of the finality of the Action is requested.

Light

The Examiner relies on Light to reject dependent claim 5. Light appears to disclose receiving an information file and processing the file according to a criteria to produce and graphically display qualitative measurements. See, Light, FIG. 7, and column 6, lines 20-45. However, Muranaga does not suggest processing "critique instructions," which differs from processing user group votes, thereby undermining motivation to combine Muranaga with Light.

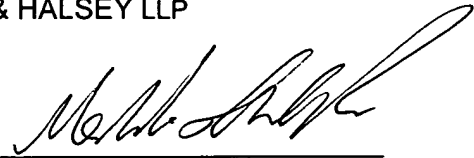
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-12 and allowance of claim 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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